



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2

290 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUL 16 2009

William J. Roberts
Director of Finance/City Clerk
City of Norwich
One City Plaza
Norwich, New York 13815

Dear Mr. Roberts:

This is in response to your June 17, 2009 request, on behalf of the City of Norwich, for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, for a project to replace the rotating biological contactors (RBCs) at the City's municipal wastewater treatment plant. The City is requesting financial assistance for the project through a federal Special Appropriation Act Grant.

According to the City's July 2007 engineering report, the treatment facility is designed for a maximum design flow of 4.2 million gallons per day but one-third of the 18 RBCs were damaged and not functioning properly as of that date, resulting in the City being in noncompliance with the effluent limits specified in its SPDES permit.

The proposed project would rehabilitate the City of Norwich's wastewater treatment facility by installing new and improved RBCs within the structures which house the existing RBCs. Thus, it involves functional replacement of existing treatment system components to restore the effectiveness of the facility's secondary treatment process.

The project meets the CATEX eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii). This category includes "actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve ... rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities."

This project does not involve a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground water, an increase in the volume or loading of pollutants to receiving water, or capacity to



serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population. Further, it is not contrary to any state or regional growth plan or strategy; and it is not primarily for the purpose of future development.

Additionally, the available information indicates that none of the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10), are present.

Based on our review, EPA approves the request for the CATEX. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion,
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist, or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address. Please note that this CATEX will be made available on EPA Region 2's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm>.

Sincerely,

George Pavlou
Acting Regional Administrator